THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Hydrocarbons have been discovered recently by M/s Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., at prospect 'E' in block RJ-ON-90/1 situated in Barmer district of Rajasthan. During initial testing, the well produced at the rate of 200 barrel of oil and also 0.2 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day of associated gas. The initial inplace reserves have been estimated by the operator to be of the order of 21 Million Metric Tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas.

Exploration of oil by ONGC in Karnataka

716. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had undertaken survey in Karnataka for oil exploration;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of these surveys;

(c) whether ONGC has identified areas on the offshore side in Karnataka for oil exploration; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to take up oil exploration in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a), (b) and (d) Except for Bhima-Kaladgi basin which falls in North-North-Western part of the State of Karnataka with very poor perceived hydrocarbon potential; the remaining part of the State comprises hard rocks and is not considered to be conducive from the point of view of hydrocarbon generation and accumulation. Thus, no exploration for hydrocarbons has been carried out so far and nor are there any plans to do so by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the State of Karnataka.

(c) In the deep water area with hydrocarbon potential, off the coast of Karnataka, ONGC holds one block on nomination basis wherein it carried out 4,926 Line Kilometer (LK) of Two Dimensional (2-D) seismic survey and drilled one well, which proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons. In

addition, ONGC holds two blocks, namely KK-DWN-2000/2 and KK-DWN-2000/4, in this deep water area under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) wherein it carried out about 6,000 LK each of 2-D seismic, gravity and magnetic surveys.

Decanalising import of Petroleum Products

717. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to decanalise import of Petroleum Products;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether these imports will jeopardize the existing refineries in the country and whether Government are planning for such contingencies as well if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b)The policy regarding import of petroleum products is covered within the Exim Policy 2002-2007. However, imports of petroleum products like Motor Sprit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), Light Diesel Oil (LDO) etc. are allowed through Indian Oil Corporation Limited as State Trading Enterprise subject to para 2.11 of Exim Policy. The Director General of Foreign Trade may grant a licence/certificate/permission to any other person to import any of these products.

(c) Imports of petroleum products *inter-alia* depend on domestic demand, duty structure that would impact on import and export possibilities, refining margin and export potential for the products. The refining sector has been delicenced since June, 1998 and, as such, the indigenous production of petroleum products, in excess of the domestic demand, would need to be exported. To the extent imports of products materialise, exports would be higher.

Bidding for HPCL

718. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for Government's proposal to give HPCL's Bhatinda